(c) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission had to give up this experiment when the Supreme Court upheld the view that law did not empower the Commission to make such innovations; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken up by Government to clear this hurdle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A preliminary decision has been taken by Government to introduce electronic voting machines in elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Final decision will however be taken after holding consultation with political parties.

(c) The Election Commission took note of the observations of the Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on the 5th March, 1984 in A. C. Jose Vs. Sivan Pillai and others. However, the Commission continued its efforts and requested the Government to undertake suitable amendment to the election laws to facilitate introduction of electronic voting machines.

(d) The Supreme Court had among other things observed in the judgment that when the Act (Representation of the People Act, 1951) and the Rules prescribed a particular method of voting, the Election Commission could not innovate a new method. It is accordingly proposed to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 with a view to introduce electronic voting machines. But, this would be done in the light of the final decision that may emerge after consultation with political parties.

Demand for increasing the strength of High Court Judges

616. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several High Courts in the country have demanded the increase in the number of judges for speedy disposal of the pending cases;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the Government's decision thereon;

(c) whether Government have asked for the names of the judges to be appointed; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there has been an inordinate delay in appointing such judges; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Chief Ministers and Chief Justices concerned with fourteen High Courts were addressed by the Central Government in June, 1985 to consider augmentation of Judge strength for speedy disposal of cases. On receipt of proposals, it was agreed to create 83 new posts of Judges/Additional Judges in different High Courts. Of these, 7 posts have since been formally sanctioned on appointments having been approved against these. A statement showing the High Court wise breakup of the remaining 76 posts is attached. (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The Government have again written to the Chief Ministers of States requesting them to send proposals for appointment of Judges, and have *inter-alia* reiterated the instructions prescribing a time-schedule by which the Chief Justices and the State authorities should send their recommendations so that vacancies are filled up expeditiously.

Proposals received for filling up of some vacancies are at different stages of consideration.

Appointment of 21 Judges/Additional Judges has been approved by the President and will be notified shortly.

Statement

Decisions to create posts as on 31-10-1986.

Sl. No.	High Court	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total
1	Allahabad	—	2	2
2	Andhra Pradesh	6	4	10
3	Bombay	2	15	17
4	Calcutta	4	5	9
5	Delhi	—	2	2
6	Gauhati	—	1	1
7	Gujarat	5	4	9
8	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	1
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1	3	4
10	Karnataka	4	2	6
11	Madhya Pradesh	—	2	2
12	Patna	4	—	4
13	Punjab & Haryana	—	3	3
14	Rajasthan	—	6	6
		26	50	76

Renovation of manufacturing facilities in BHEL

617. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken for modernisation and renovation of manufacturing facilities in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited; and

(b) whether any plans have been formulated by Government for further expansion of the BHEL and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) The following measures are being taken for modernisation and renovation of manufacturing facilities in BHEL:

(i) Reconditioning of existing machine tools.

(ii) Installation of features like numerical control/computerised numerical control and digital read-out in existing machines.

(iii) Installation of high-tech measuring instruments for quality improvement.

(b) No new units are planned for the VII Plan. Manufacturing facilities for gas turbines, nuclear steam-generator, etc., are being set up in the existing units.